

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

LICENSES AND PERMITS
AVAILABLE FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS



Pictured above is Lee Van Arsdale on his 2012 Bighorn Sheep hunt in which he received his license through the donated license to a disabled veteran program.

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The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has several licenses and permits available to individuals with disabilities. The variety of licenses available either grants the disabled individual the privilege of harvesting big game, small game, game birds or taking fish. The permits available are issued to grant the disabled individual some other privilege to enhance a license already in their possession, such as to shoot from their vehicle or hunt big game up to 5 days early in some cases.

Each license and permit has specific qualifications that must be met prior to issuance. The qualifications are established by Wyoming Statute and Commission Regulation. The disabled individual is required to submit documentation to the Department evidencing their qualifications for the license or permit requested. The chart on pages 4 – 6 illustrates the specific statute and/or regulation authorizing the issuance of each license and permit as well as the qualifications required.

A brief description of licenses available to disabled individuals is as follows:

100% Disabled Veteran Bird, Fish and Small Game License. This is a free license made available to residents of the State of Wyoming. The license is valid as long as the individual retains their residency status. The individual must submit documentary evidence from the Veterans Administration Regional Office certifying to the 100% level of disability of the applicant. These licenses are issued at all Department offices.

50% Disabled Veteran Fishing License. This is a free license made available to residents of the State of Wyoming. The statutory language does not state that the license is valid as long as the licensee maintains their Wyoming residency; therefore, the license is valid for a lifetime, once issued. The individual must submit documentary evidence from the Veterans Administration Regional Office certifying to the 50% level of disability compensation of the applicant. These licenses are issued at all Department offices.

Antelope Commissioner WS 23-1-705(h) License. Up to a total of fifty (50) antelope licenses are made available each year for the exclusive distribution by nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing hunting opportunities to individuals with disabilities for use by those individuals for hunting opportunities. The nonprofit organization is required to submit a request by January 31 each year to the License Section for the number of licenses they desire. If more requests are made than licenses available, the License Section will conduct a drawing to determine how many licenses are granted to each nonprofit organization. These antelope licenses are issued to disabled individuals upon payment of the appropriate license fee which is received from the nonprofit organization sponsoring the disabled individual. The Department does not review or approve the qualifications of the disabled individual to obtain this license. The nonprofit organization determines what individuals they will sponsor. The term “disabilities” is defined in Commission Regulation, Chapter 44. The licenses are issued at the Headquarters Office.

Elk, Deer, Antelope Commissioner WS 23-1-705(j) License. This statute allows the commission, upon payment of the proper fees, to issue any number of antelope licenses, deer licenses, elk licenses and turkey licenses each year for the exclusive use by persons twenty (20) years of age or younger with a life threatening illness who are sponsored by a nonprofit charitable organization with a mission to provide opportunities and experiences to persons with life threatening or serious illnesses. The number to be issued is set by rule and regulation.

Currently, commission regulation provides for up to a total of twenty five (25) antelope, twenty five (25) deer, twenty five (25) elk, and twenty five (25) turkey licenses to be issued each year. The nonprofit charitable organization is required to submit a request by January 31 for antelope, deer, elk, spring and fall turkey each year to the License Section for the number of licenses they desire. These licenses are issued upon payment of the appropriate license fee which is received from the nonprofit charitable organization sponsoring the youth. The license is issued at no cost to the licensee. The nonprofit charitable organization must submit documentary evidence from a licensed physician stating the license recipient is clinically diagnosed with a life-threatening or serious illness. The licenses are issued at the Headquarters Office.

Resident or Nonresident Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Deer, Elk, Moose or Mountain Goat Donated Disabled Veteran License. The holder of a valid big game license may surrender their license to the Department for reissuance to a disabled veteran. A nonprofit charitable organization must select and sponsor a disabled veteran for license issuance. The nonprofit charitable organization must certify under penalty of law that they provide hunting opportunities to disabled veterans. The disabled veteran may be a resident or a nonresident of the State of Wyoming. The disabled veteran must provide documentary evidence from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs indicating they receive fifty percent (50%) or more service connected disability compensation. The license is issued to the disabled veteran at no fee. The licenses are issued at the Headquarters Office.

Special Limited Fishing Permits. The Department is authorized to allow qualified institutions, facilities or schools to issue for no fee a special limited fishing permit to persons under their care and supervision. This allows those institutions, facilities or schools to have organized fishing outings during the year. The institution, facility or school must certify under penalty of perjury they qualify as defined in state statute for this privilege. They are required to remit an annual report to the Department for the number of outings conducted and the number of licenses issued during the calendar year. The authorizations are issued at the Headquarters Office.

A brief description of permits available to disabled individuals is as follows:

Disabled Hunter Permit. The Department is authorized to issue a free permit to a qualified individual to designate themselves as a disabled person. The disabled individual must submit an application in which a physician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist must attest to the disability of the applicant. The permit is also available to a disabled veteran with at least a sixty five (65) percent disability evidenced by a letter from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs. This disabled hunter permit allows the disabled individual to have a companion assist them in the field to take an animal that has been shot and wounded by the disabled hunter in accordance with state statute and commission rule and regulation. The companion is required to purchase an annual Disabled Hunter Companion Permit to assist the disabled hunter. These permits are issued by all Department Offices.

Individuals in possession of a Disabled Hunter Permit may hunt five (5) days prior to the earliest opening date in the Hunt Area(s) and for the sex of species set forth by the limitations of their license in the appropriate regulation.

Disabled Hunter Companion Permit. This is the annual permit that must be purchased for a fee of \$5.00 for an individual to be designed as a companion for a disabled hunter. These permits are issued by all Department Offices.

Permanent Permit for Hunters with Qualifying Disabilities. The Department is authorized to issue a free permit to an individual that has a permanent physical handicap or impairment and/or a qualifying disability which necessitates them to at all times utilize a wheelchair, cane, crutches, or some other mechanical device to assist them in moving to and from their vehicle. Hunters with this permit are allowed to shoot from a stationary vehicle to take wildlife. The permit shall not allow a hunter with a qualifying disability to hunt, shoot or attempt to take any wildlife from, upon, along or across any public road or highway. An application is required for the issuance of this permit in which a physician has verified the qualifications of the applicant. This permit is issued at all Department Offices.

Temporary Permit for Hunters with Qualifying Disabilities . This permit is the same as the Permanent Permit for Hunters with Qualifying Disabilities except it is for the individual that has some temporary medical condition which necessitates them to at all times utilize a wheelchair, cane, crutches, or some other mechanical device to assist them in moving to and from their vehicle. The applicant is not required to submit a physician statement. The permit expires on December 31 of the year issued. These permits are issued at all Department Offices.

Central Visual Acuity Disability Permits. Any person having a Central Visual Acuity Disability Permit may use an artificial light or lighting device to take any game species. Central Visual Acuity Disability means a person's vision permanently does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses, or the widest diameter of the visual field is greater than twenty (20) degrees. Any person having a central visual acuity disability as attested in writing by the applicant and certified by a medical doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, optometrist or ophthalmologist licensed to practice medicine, on a form provided by the Department, may be issued a Central Visual Acuity Disability Permit. A person with a central visual acuity disability shall submit an application on a form provided by the Department. The application shall be completed in full and shall bear the applicant's name, address and signature. The application shall also bear the printed name, address and signature of the individual licensed to practice medicine that certifies the applicant meets the qualifications of a person with a central visual acuity disability. Central Visual Acuity Disability Permits shall be issued to qualified applicants by the Department's License Section, Regional Offices or designated Department personnel. There shall be no fee for a Central Visual Acuity Disability Permit.

License/Permit Issued	Statutory Authority	Commission Regulation(s)
Disabled Hunter Permit Disabled Hunter Companion Permit	W.S. 23-1-302. Powers and duties. (m) The commission shall by rule and regulation provide for the issuance of a disabled hunter companion permit. The permit shall: (iv) Be issued in accordance with commission rules and regulations specifying the physical limitations which must be met by the disabled hunter and the requirements for the permit holder; ..	Chapter 35 Regulation for Disabled Hunter and Disabled Hunter Companion Permits Chapter 44 Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons Section 6. Permits. (b) Page 44-16
Permanent Permit for Hunters with Qualifying Disability Temporary Permit for Hunters with Qualifying Disability	W. S. 23-3-306. Use of aircraft, automobiles, motorized and snow vehicles and artificial light for hunting or fishing prohibited; exception; penalties. (a)The commission may exempt handicapped hunters from any provision of this subsection.	Chapter 38 Hunters with a Qualifying Disability Authorized to Shoot From a Vehicle Chapter 44 Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons Section 6. Permits. (c) Page 44-16
100% Disabled Veteran Bird, Fish, and Small Game License	W.S. 23-1-705. Complimentary licenses; one-shot antelope hunt licenses; gunpowder and buckskin hunt licenses; gratuitous licenses; donated licenses. (d) The department shall issue without charge lifetime bird, small game and fish licenses to any resident.....or to any disabled veteran who is one hundred percent (100%) disabled as determined by the United States department of veteran affairs. The license is valid so long as the licensee remains a Wyoming resident.	Chapter 44 Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons Section 14. Pioneer Licenses, Pioneer Heritage Licenses, Honorably Discharged Pioneer Veteran's Licenses, One Hundred Percent (100%) Disabled Resident Veterans Licenses, and Resident Disabled Veteran's Lifetime Fishing Licenses. (d) Page 44-21
Antelope Commissioner WS 23-1-705(h) License	W.S. 23-1-705. Complimentary licenses; one-shot antelope hunt licenses; gunpowder and buckskin hunt licenses; gratuitous licenses; donated licenses. (h) In addition the commission may, upon receipt of payment of antelope license fees, issue up to a total of fifty (50) antelope licenses each year for the exclusive distribution by nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing hunting opportunities to individuals with disabilities for use by those individuals for hunting opportunities.	Chapter 44 Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons Section 5. License Issuance. (e)(i)(B) Page 44-8 and 44-9

License/Permit Issued	Statutory Authority	Commission Regulation(s)
Elk Commissioner WS 23-1-705(j) License Deer Commissioner WS 23-1-705(j) License Antelope Commissioner WS 23-1-705(j) License	W.S. 23-1-705. Complimentary licenses; one-shot antelope hunt licenses; gunpowder and buckskin hunt licenses; gratuitous licenses; donated licenses. (j) In addition the commission may issue upon payment of proper fees any number, set by rule and regulation, of antelope licenses, deer licenses, elk licenses and turkey licenses each year for the exclusive use by persons twenty (20) years of age or younger with life threatening illnesses who are sponsored by a nonprofit charitable organization with a mission to provide opportunities and experiences to persons with life threatening or serious illnesses. As a condition of issuing the license, the sponsoring organization shall pay the appropriate license fee on behalf of the licensee and at no cost to the licensee.	Chapter 44 Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons Section 13. Commissioner Complimentary Licenses for Persons with Life Threatening Illnesses Page 44-20 and 44-21 Up to: 25 antelope, 25 deer, 25 elk and 25 wild turkey
Resident ‘Species’ Donated Disabled Veteran Nonresident ‘Species’ Donated Disabled Veteran	W.S. 23-1-705. Complimentary licenses; one-shot antelope hunt licenses; gunpowder and buckskin hunt licenses; gratuitous licenses; donated licenses. (k) The holder of any valid big game license may surrender said license to the department for reissuance to a veteran with disabilities as established by commission rule and regulation selected and sponsored by a nonprofit charitable organization providing hunting opportunities for disabled veterans.	Chapter 44 Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons Section 15. Donation of Big Game Licenses to Disabled Veterans. Pages 44-22 and 44-23
50% Disabled Veteran Fishing License	W.S. 23-2-201. Fees; restrictions; verification of residency required. (f) Any resident disabled veteran who receives fifty percent (50%) or more service connected disability compensation from the United States department of veteran’s affairs may apply to the department for a resident disabled veteran’s lifetime fishing license.	Chapter 44 Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons Section 14. Pioneer Licenses, Pioneer Heritage Licenses, Honorably Discharged Pioneer Veteran’s Licenses, One Hundred Percent (100%) Disabled Resident Veterans Licenses, and Resident Disabled Veteran’s Lifetime Fishing Licenses. (f) Page 44-22
Special Limited Fishing Permits	W.S. 23-2-207. Special limited fishing permit for hospitalized veterans, residents of state institutions, court placed children and residents of licensed nursing care facilities; students. (a) Upon an appropriate form furnished by the appropriate institution or facility as prescribed by rule and regulation of the commission, a special limited fishing permit may be issued without charge by: (iv) Any nursing care facility as defined by W.S. 35-2-901(a)(xvi) and licensed under W.S. 35-2-901 through 35-2-910, to any person under the care and supervision of and residing in the facility, which entitles this person to fish while under the direct control of the facility;	Chapter 44 Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons Section 6. Permits. (i) Page 44-17

License/Permit Issued	Statutory Authority	Commission Regulation(s)
Central Visual Acuity Permit	W.S. 23-3-306 Use of aircraft, automobiles, motorized and snow vehicles and artificial light for hunting or fishing prohibited; exception; penalties. (f) The commission shall establish by rule and regulation specifications for the taking of game animals with the use of artificial light or lighting devices by persons with central visual acuity disabilities.	Chapter 64 Regulation for Central Visual Acuity Disability Permits